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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09 975,664	10 10 2001	Frank Fellhauer		8610

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EXAMINER

TON, ANABEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 10 24 2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/975,664

Applicant(s)

FELLHAUER, FRANK

Examiner

Anabel M Ton

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duerkob (4,954,808) and further in view of Tran (5,059,015).

3. Duerkob discloses an external housing, the housing comprising a base, the housing, further comprising a top piece fixedly attached to the base, the housing further comprising a lens, at least three light sources, a first light source, a second light source, and a third light source, power means for providing power to the light sources. Tran discloses a front compartment and a rear compartment, both of the compartments being located within an external housing, the first light source being located in the front compartment, the second light source the rear compartment, and power means for providing power to the light sources. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement a separate compartment in a rearward direction to accommodate Duerkob's two other light sources for the purpose of providing a separate compartment for placement of a reflector housing for each respective light bulb as taught by Tran.

- With regards to the lens comprising four separate segments, two larger segments and two smaller segments, the two larger segments being front-

mounted in a 'gull-winged' aerodynamic shape, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement 4 separate of lenses, since, it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. With regards the aerodynamic shape of the housing, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide an aerodynamic shape for the housing, since most modern vehicles do provide aerodynamic shapes for exterior automotive attachments so as to prevent wind drag and excess exterior noise caused by this furthermore, since the applicant has not disclosed that implementing an aerodynamic shape is for any purposes or solves any stated problem, it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the shapes provided Tran and Duerkob.

- With regards to the brake light being forward facing, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a forward facing brake attached at a location that can be seen from a location in front of the vehicle since forward facing brake lights are well known in the art in automotive applications. (please see cited prior art Cail)
- With regards to all of the light sources within the external housing would be light-emitting diodes it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an LED as the light source of the device of the instant invention since the examiner takes official notice that the

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advantages of LED over other light sources (i.e. reduced size, high efficiency, low power consumption, long life, resistance to vibrations, low heat production) are old and well known in the illumination art.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cail.

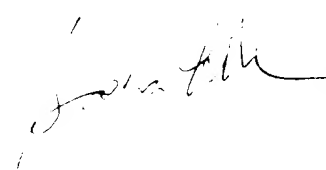
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anabel M Ton whose telephone number is (703) 305-1084. The examiner can normally be reached on 08:00-16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (703) 305-4939. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Anabel M Ton
Examiner
Art Unit 2875

AMT
October 20, 2002



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